

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to many claims to ensure consistency of claim terminology. No new matter is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,777,610) in view of Takasu et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,067,062). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As for claims 1, 2, 4, and 11, the office action asserts that Sugimoto teaches most aspects of the claimed invention but fails to teach an electrooptic material layer sandwiched between a pair of substrates. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the asserted teachings of Sugimoto.

Claims 1, 2 and 11 call for a driver integrated circuit mounted on an extended area of an edge of the substrate. Claims 1 and 2 also call for a circuit board having electronic components thereon provided above the driver integrated circuit and substantially within the extended area. Claim 11 calls for the circuit board to be provided above the driver integrated circuit proximate said extended area.

In contrast, Sugimoto teaches a display 11 with substrates 11a and 11b. Substrate 11b has edges 12a-12d. A plurality of flexible wiring boards 19 are mounted to the edges 12a and 12b. Each of the flexible wiring boards 19 laterally extends beyond the perimeter of the display 12. A driver IC 16 is mounted to each wiring board

19. Each driver IC 16 is offset from the perimeter of the display. Thus, rather than providing a driver IC mounted on an extended area of a substrate as claimed in claims 1, 2 and 11, Sugimoto teaches driver ICs mounted on flexible wiring boards. Sugimoto's driver ICs are not "mounted on" an extended area of a substrate as claimed. Moreover, the flexible wiring boards offset the driver ICs relative to the substrate such that the driver ICs are not even indirectly "mounted on" the extended area of the substrate by way of the flexible wiring boards.

Furthermore, Sugimoto teaches circuit boards 14 mounted adjacent the display 12. Thus, rather than teaching a circuit board substantially within the extended area as claimed in claims 1 and 2, Sugimoto teaches circuit boards 14 laterally offset from the extended area. Also, Sugimoto teaches circuit boards 14 mounted under the driver ICs 16. This is opposite to the arrangement recited in claims 1, 2 and 11 wherein the circuit board is positioned above the driver IC (since the driver IC is mounted on the substrate).

Claim 4 depends from claim 2 and is distinguished over the references of record for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

As for claims 3 and 12, the office action asserts that Sugimoto teaches most aspects of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the asserted teachings of Sugimoto.

Claims 3 and 12 call for a display panel including a first and a second substrate opposed to each other with a first extended area wherein the first substrate extends further than an edge of the second substrate and a second extended area wherein the second substrate extends further than an edge of the first substrate. In contrast,

Sugimoto teaches a display 11 including a first substrate 11a opposite a second substrate 11b. A perimeter of the second substrate 11b extends beyond a perimeter of the first substrate 11a. Thus, rather than teaching a first extended area of a first substrate and a second extended area of a second substrate as claimed in claim 3, Sugimoto only teaches a second substrate 11b with an extended area. The first substrate 11a does not have an extended area as claimed.

Claims 3 and 12 also call for a scanning driver integrated circuit mounted on the first extended area and a data-signal driver integrated circuit mounted on the second extended area. As stated above with respect to claims 1, 2, and 11, Sugimoto fails to teach such an arrangement. Instead, Sugimoto teaches driver ICs 16 mounted on flexible wiring boards 19 and offset from the edges 12a and 12b of the substrate 11b.

Claims 3 and 12 further call for a circuit board provided at least above the scanning driver integrated circuit mounted in the first extended area or the data-signal driver integrated circuit mounted in the second extended area so as to be essentially within a plane region of either extended area. The claimed arrangement calls for the driver integrated circuits to be “mounted in” the extended areas. This arrangement is clearly not taught by Sugimoto inasmuch as the driver ICs of Sugimoto are laterally offset from the substrate 11b. Moreover, Sugimoto teaches circuit boards 14 which are offset from the substrate 11b and under the driver ICs 16. As such, the circuit boards 14 are not essentially within a plane region of either claimed extended area.

As for dependent claims: 5, 14, 20-22 and 27; 6, 13, and 15; 7, 16, 23, and 28; 9, 18, and 30; 10, 19, and 26; and 8, 17, 24-25, 29, and 31, applicant respectfully

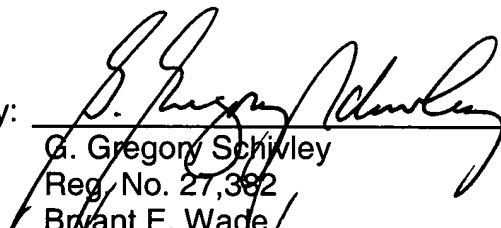
submits that these claims are distinguished over the references of record for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to their base claims.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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